

WI-365  
Bennett-Adkins Farm  
Mardela Springs vicinity  
Private

Early to mid 19th century

Historically associated with the Bennett and Adkins families, this farm complex is located on the edge of the Barren Creek mill pond. For much of its history, the farm was associated with the old Barren Creek mill. The buildings that define the Bennett-Adkins farm date from the early to mid nineteenth century. The two-story, three-bay farmhouse has common bond exterior brick chimney stacks and flush gable ends. These architectural elements place construction around 1850-60. A single-story outbuilding that stands in the backyard was a former blacksmith's shop. Its mortise-and-tenon frame and beaded edge siding fastened with cut nails are indications that it was erected during the early to mid nineteenth century. The complex also includes an early nineteenth-century corn crib and an early twentieth-century barn among other late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures.

Elisha Bennett purchased this farm property in 1852 along with half-interest in the Barren Creek mill, and the mill farm was described as "being a part of the real estate formerly belonging to Jesse Walter and the place where said Jesse formerly resided." Jesse's wife Rachel is buried in a small cemetery on the property. The transfer to Bennett included "saw and grist mills, dam, pond, plank and stock yards, stream and banks." The Barren Creek mill farm remained in Bennett family ownership through the early years of the twentieth century until David H. Adkins purchased the property in April 1909. It has remained under Adkins family ownership.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-365

Magi No.

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Bennett-Adkins Farm

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Barren Creek Mill Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James R. Adkins, Jr.

street & number 4628 Broken Lute Way telephone no.:

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21042

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1468

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 9

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-365

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bennett-Adkins farm is located on the east side of Barren Creek Road east of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The property borders the south side of the Barren Creek mill pond. The farmhouse, a two-story, three-bay frame dwelling, faces west with the gable oriented on a north/south axis. The farmhouse is joined on the site by a collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century outbuildings.

Dating from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century as well as the early twentieth century, the farm complex consists of a c. 1850 dwelling, a c. 1930 gambrel roofed barn, a c. 1830-40 corn crib, a c. 1830-40 blacksmith's shop, a fragment of a c. 1900-20 chicken house, early to mid twentieth century chicken houses, and a small family cemetery.

The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported on a partially rebuilt brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story rear wing that is extended farther by a single-story kitchen wing. The house has been remodeled and a large share of the interior woodwork has been removed.

The west (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking window openings. The mid nineteenth century four-panel door survives in place but the adjacent window openings have been replaced by modern bay windows. A pent eave has been erected across the front of the house and atop the bay windows. The second floor is defined by two replacement windows. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice.

The south gable end features an exterior 8-course common bond brick chimney stack with a corbeled base and a single flue stack. The gable end is a blind wall with a flush eave. A fragment of an exterior chimney stack is located on the north gable end.

Covering the east (rear) wall is a two-story, two-bay wing that extends farther eastward with a single-story kitchen. A partially enclosed shed roof porch is attached to the south side of the wing. The two-story wing, like the house, is covered by a medium pitched gable roof and the windows have been replaced.

Located in the center of the agricultural complex is a gambrel roofed barn supported on a concrete foundation and it is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The gambrel roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The south side of the barn has centrally positioned door openings on three levels. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors. A timber cat head and hay rake extend outward under an outward projection of the gambrel roof. The sides of the barn are pierced by six-over-six sash windows.

Standing immediately west of the barn is a combination corn crib and wagon shed. Supported by brick piers, the center corn crib is surrounded on three sides by shed roofed additions. The corn crib is covered with vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. Protected under the shed roof are remnants of beveled edge board siding fastened with cut nails. Used as a step stone in the west bay is a millstone from the old Barren Creek Mill.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-365

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically associated with the Bennett and Adkins families, this farm complex is located on the edge of the Barren Creek mill pond. For much of its history, the farm was associated with the old Barren Creek mill. The buildings that define the Bennett-Adkins farm date from the early to mid nineteenth century. The two-story, three-bay farmhouse has common bond exterior brick chimney stacks and flush gable ends. These architectural elements place construction around 1850-60. A single-story outbuilding that stands in the backyard was a former blacksmith's shop. Its mortise-and-tenon frame and beaded edge siding fastened with cut nails are indications that it was erected during the early to mid nineteenth century. The complex also includes an early nineteenth-century corn crib and an early twentieth-century barn among other late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures.

Elisha Bennett purchased this farm property in 1852 along with half-interest in the Barren Creek mill, and the mill farm was described as "being a part of the real estate formerly belonging to Jesse Walter and the place where said Jesse formerly resided."<sup>1</sup> Jesse's wife Rachel is buried in a small cemetery on the property. The transfer to Bennett included "saw and grist mills, dam, pond, plank and stock yards, stream and banks." The Barren Creek mill farm remained in Bennett family ownership through the early years of the twentieth century until David H. Adkins purchased the property in April 1909.<sup>2</sup> It has remained under Adkins family ownership.

The farm qualifies for listing in *Category A* due to the architectural merit of the surviving outbuildings.

<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Land Record, LW 1/175, 19 January 1852.

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 62/290, 13 April 1909.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-365

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 3/10/98

street &amp; number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

Bennett-Adkins Farm

Barren Creek Mill Road

Mardela Springs vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

An old blacksmith's shop is located next to the corn crib, and the board and batten door with unusual wrought iron hinges is stored in the center section of the crib. The blacksmith's shop is a single story mortise and tenon frame structure sheathed with a combination of beaded and plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with tin, and the base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The interior has an exposed mortise-and-tenon frame and lighting studs are fastened with cut nails. Oral tradition associates the use of this building as a blacksmith's shop. There is no internal evidence of other use such as smoking meat. The unusual strap hinges on the board and batten door support this oral tradition.

The small family cemetery contains a few grave markers, several of which are illegible due to erosion of the names and dates. One marker identifies the grave of Rachel, Consort of Jesse Walter, who was born 9 September 1801.

WI-365  
Bennett-Adkins Farm  
Barren Creek Road  
Mardela Springs vic., Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

1468/9                      James Russell Adkins

to

12/22/1995                James R. Adkins, Jr.  
Marilyn C. Adkins

1213/859                    Joseph Howard Adkins

to

4/5/1990                    James Russell Adkins  
Elizabeth M. Adkins

A J S 955/148             James Russell Adkins  
Joseph Howard Adkins, Personal representatives of  
Nina B. Adkins

to

3/26/1980                   James Russell Adkins  
Joseph Howard Adkins

The above described properties being a part of the same land  
that was conveyed unto Russell T. Adkins

1. from David H. Adkins, 8/28/1918, JCK 109/270

2. from Curtis W. Long, 8/3/1928, IDT 157/74

which said land upon the death of Russell T. Adkins intestate  
descended unto his widow Nina B. Adkins

WI-365  
Bennett-Adkins Farm  
Barren Creek Road  
Mardela Springs vic., Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JCK 109/279                      David H. Adkins, widower

to

8/28/1918                      Russell T. Adkins

EAT 62/290                      George W. Bennett

to

4/13/1909                      David H. Adkins

\$1800.00

Somerset County  
Land Record  
LW 1/175

John B. Taylor

to

3/19/1852                      Elisha Bennett

\$4,000.00    17 3/8 acres

All that tract of land on the east side of the aforesaid county road and on the south side of the mill pond and more particularly described....being a part of the real estate formerly belonging to Jesse Walter and the place where the said Jesse formerly resided

½ interest in the said Mills known as Barren Creek Mills including saw and grist mills, dam, pond, plank and stock yards, stream and banks



WI-365  
Bennett-Adkins Farm  
Barren Creek Road  
Mardela Springs vic., Wicomico County, MD  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

Somerset County  
Land Record  
WP 5/49

William Williams and Adaline Williams

to

1/16/1850

John B. Taylor

Containing 17 3/8 acres being a part of the real estate formerly belonging to Jesse Walter and the place where the said Jesse formerly resided together with one undivided moiety of the lot of ground in Samuel Brattan's field which was purchased for the use of the said Mills called Barren Creek Mills to furnish the dam of the same with dirt

also 1/2 moiety of said Mills known as the Barren Creek Mills

Somerset County  
Land Record  
AH 573

Jesse Walter

to

5/24/1843

William Williams, M. D. of Somerset County

\$4,000 all those tracts of land & personal property mentioned and described in the special return of John J. Crockett Esq. late Sheriff to numbers one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and ten of the execution docket May term 1843

WI-365  
Bennett-Adkins Farm  
Barren Creek Road  
Mardela Springs vic., Wicomico County, MD  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 4/475

Joshua Brattan, Esq.

to

5/5/1829

William Williams

Writ of Fieri Facias-a certain William Williams  
by judgment of the same court recovered against  
a certain Jesse Walter late of Somerset County

\$1,339.14 part of a tract "Lebanon"

part of Venable's Pretentions

part of Troublesome

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 1/227

Joseph Russum, Margaret Russum, Nancy Russum,  
Mary Russum, Isaac Nichols and Hetty his wife

to

7/21/1823

Jesse Walter

"Corn Hill" 160 acres

WI-365  
Bennett-Adkins Farm  
Barren Creek Road  
Mardela Springs vic., Wicomico County, MD  
Chain of title continued

Page 5

Somerset County  
Land Record  
Bond  
GH 7/490

Joshua Brattan

to

6/4/1827

Jesse Walter

\$3,000 "Lebanon" "Miles End" which includes my  
part or the one half of the "Lower Mills"  
commonly called Barren Creek Mills

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 1/206

Joseph B. Russum, Executor of William Russum

to

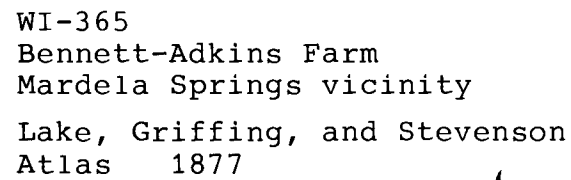
7/23/1823

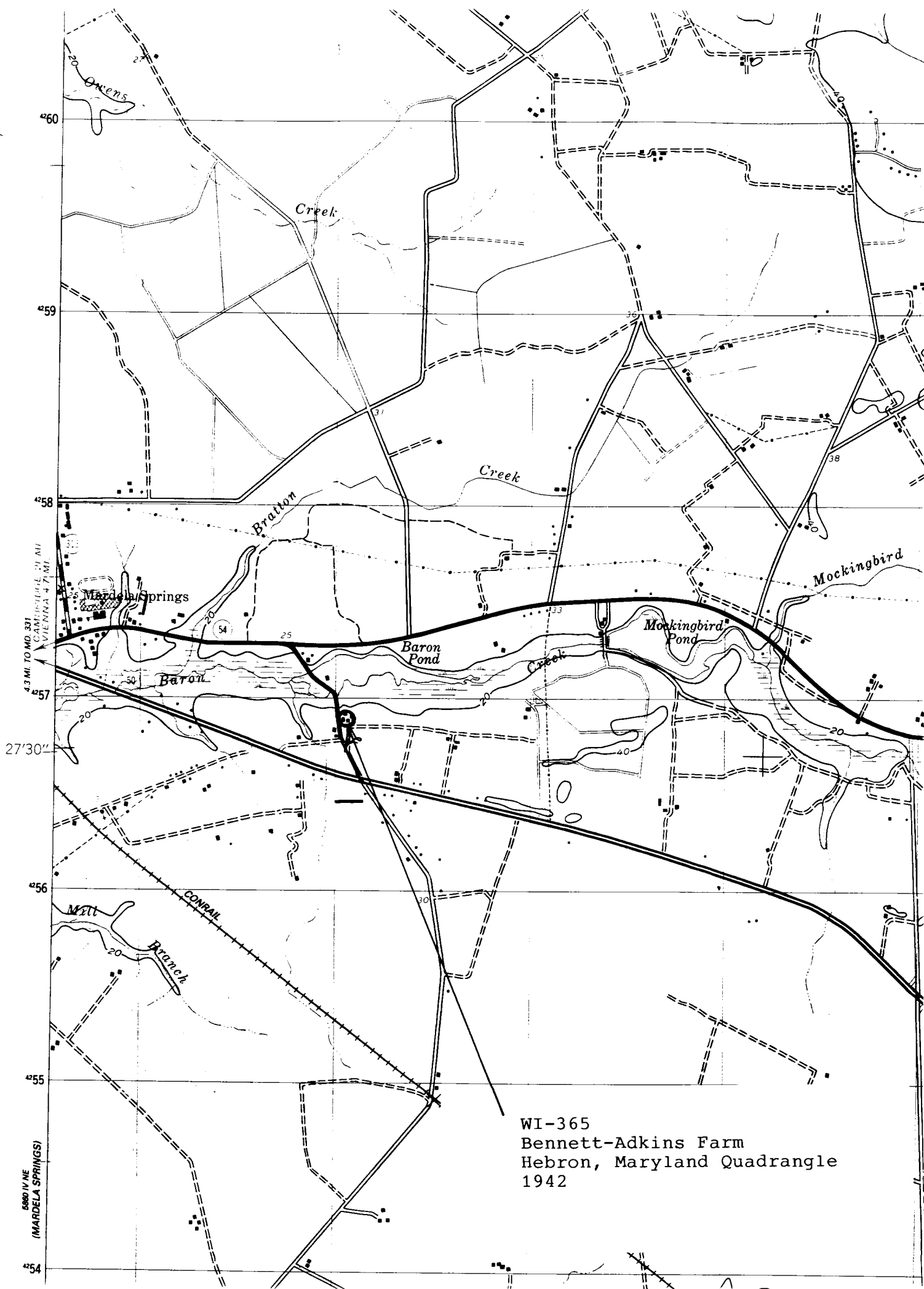
Jesse Walter

"Cold Stream"

land westward of road from Barren Creek Mills to  
Rewastico Mills

Dist No 1  
WICOMICO CO

























141-365

Summit Peak, Tenn.

1/20/04. 1000 ft. above base of

Neogene. 1000 ft. above base of 1000 ft. above base of

1000 ft. above base of 1000 ft. above base of

3/94. 1000 ft. above base of 1000 ft. above base of

5 or 6

